

Firefighters frequently put their lives on line

Editor's note: This is the eighth in a series of articles about the Orem Citizen's Academy.

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OREM — Rob Behrend was the first member of our Citizen's Academy class to notice the camaraderie which exists among firefighters.

You hear about members of a certain profession, such as police officers, describing their working relationship as a "close family." However, only firefighters have this unmistakable feeling of comradeship and it shows.

My guess is it's because of the increasing number of times they put their lives on the line every year, sometimes for each other. I'm told firefighting is more dangerous than police work because of the variety of incidents firefighters respond to.

During Thursday's class Orem firefighters showed off, like a Christmas present, the latest weapon they use to respond to incidents involving hazardous materials. Capt. Lynn Rowley informed us of how today's world of increased chemical use makes their jobs harder.

A serious spill can take hours or days to clean and it involves total teamwork. Yevon Romney and I were selected to don

OREM CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

Once our assignment was complete, Romney and I had to depend on Chandler Bates, Gary Seastrand and Tony Yapias to wash us down in the decontamination station. I didn't realize the preparation involved for the entire operation to be conducted.

Now I understand why so much emphasis is placed on the possible prevention of such incidents. Aside from the threat to a firefighter's life, the man hours to clean up a spill can reach thousands of dollars.

Dave Eckersley, fire prevention specialist, spoke about the 4,000 man hours spent annually inspecting commercial businesses and hazardous materials. Another 350 man hours is spent surveying the entire city of Orem for flammable materials, such as weeds, that might threaten buildings or homes.

Those don't count the hundreds of hours fire prevention spends in the city's elementary schools. Throughout the year fire prevention attempts to inform the public of the dangers that exist within their own homes, said Eckersley. (One such presentation, Home Safe Home, begins Tuesday at the University Mall.)



Herald Photo/Jennifer Gregg

Jesse Clark, 9, of Ivy Hall Academy, practices hitting a bucket with a stream of water, with help from Ken Reid, of the Provo Fire Dept.

Activities slated for Fire Prevention Week

10-2-93

ties in and around the University

In Pleasant Grove, fire spokes-
person Gloria Swenson said burn

